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DON'T LET PUMP'S PERMIT BE DELAYED

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Our nation is made great by the visionaries, the risk-takers, the doers. Their efforts are made possible by the rest of us, the consumers and voters who support their efforts. A third group is indifferent to much of what goes on. They neither help nor hurt our society to a significant extent.

Then we have the blockers, the stoppers. They are the ones who do not take risks nor create anything, but rather look for worthwhile efforts that they can stop and hold hostage.

A specific case in point is the Miccosukee tribe's attempt to force the South Florida Water Management District to obtain a duplicative, cumbersome, expensive and non-productive federal permit, for the S-9 pump in southwestern Broward County, as well as potentially thousands of others throughout the District's 16-county jurisdiction. This particular pump, together with the others in its inter-connected network, provide essential flood protection to the 6.5 million residents of the district. In addition, this network (along with the future modifications planned for it) is an integral part of the massive and ambitious environmental clean-up tasks that the public has entrusted the district with. Certainly, Congress never intended to treat flood control/environmental restoration agencies like the district, which actually introduce no pollutants into the water that they move, in the same category as industrial polluters, under the Clean Water Act.

Given the huge nationwide repercussions riding on this case, let's hope that the U.S. Supreme Court does the right thing when it issues its ruling on this case next year. Limited government, federalism, separation of powers, the rule of law and common sense hang in the balance.